

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for generating a multi-dimensional data structure in order to access data associated with a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said method comprising the steps of:

defining at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and an attribute value for said multi-dimensional data structure;

creating a combination plurality of combinations, wherein said each combination defines a data item, [;]

~~mapping said multi-dimensional data structure to said data source;~~

~~determining a location of a gap; and~~

~~documenting said gap by determining how said gap was bridged~~

wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and each of the plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items;

mapping data items in the first set of data items in said multi-dimensional data structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items in each data source; and

determining a location of the gap, the gap comprising a difference between said first set of data items and a second set of data items.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~bridging the gap wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items and wherein said determining step includes the step of establishing a difference between said first set of data items and said second set of data items.~~

3. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 2, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of data sources.
4. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1 any preceding claim~~, wherein said attribute is assigned to a single dimension.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein each said dimension value is associated with a dimension and said attribute value is associated with an attribute.
6. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1 any preceding claim~~, wherein said step of creating ~~a combination~~ combinations includes the step of linking two or more dimensions for said combination created.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said step of mapping ~~said multi-dimensional data structure to said plurality of data sources~~ includes the step of mapping said a combination for a dimension value to a source structure.
8. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1 any preceding claim~~, further comprising the step of creating a mapping file for historic data conversion.
9. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1 any preceding claim~~, further comprising the step of generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.
10. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine, said instructions for generating a new multi-dimensional chart of accounts that is used to access data associated with a plurality of charts of accounts, wherein said plurality of charts of accounts has a different number of dimensions than said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts, the program storage device executing the steps of:
 - defining at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and an attribute value for said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts;
 - creating a ~~combination~~ plurality of combinations, wherein each said combination defines a data item{;},
 - ~~mapping said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to said plurality of charts of accounts;~~

~~determining a location of a gap; and~~

~~documenting said gap by determining how said gap was bridged~~

and wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first

set of data items and each of said plurality of data sources is defined by a second

set of data items;

mapping data items in the first set of data items in said new multi-

dimensional chart of accounts to corresponding data items in the second set of

data items in each chart of accounts; and

determining a location of a gap comprising a difference between said first

set of data items and a second set of data items.

11. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein ~~said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items and wherein said determining step includes the step of establishing a difference between said first set and said second set of data items the program storage device further executes the step of bridging the gap.~~

12. (currently amended) The program storage device of ~~claim 10 or~~ claim 11, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of charts of accounts.

13. (currently amended) The program storage device of ~~claim 10 any one of claims 10 to 12~~, wherein attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

14. (original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein said dimension value is associated with a dimension and said attribute value is associated with an attribute.

15. (original) The program storage device of claim 14, wherein said dimension is at least one of a dimension for a product, an industry classification and a maturity.

16. (original) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein said dimension value associated with said product dimension is one of corporate loans, mortgages, home credits and personal loans.

17. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 10 any one of claims 10 to 16, wherein said step of creating combinations includes linking two or more dimensions for each said combination created.

18. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein said step of mapping ~~said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to a plurality of charts of accounts~~ includes ~~the step of~~ mapping said each combination for a dimension value to said plurality of charts of accounts.

19. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 10 any one of claims 10 to 18, further comprising the step of creating a mapping file for historic data conversion.

20. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 10 any one of claims 10 to 19, further comprising the step of generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.

21. (currently amended) A tool for generating a multi-dimensional data structure for integrating data from a plurality of data sources, ~~wherein~~ said plurality of data sources having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said tool comprising:

a relational database;

a processor;

a data structure generator, wherein said data structure generator defines at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and an attribute value;

a combination module for creating and retrieving a plurality of combinations, wherein a combination defines a data item and wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items;

a mapping module for mapping ~~a new data structure to said plurality of data structures; and~~

~~a gap detector and resolver for locating and documenting how gaps are bridged data items in the first set of data items in the multi-dimensional data structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items in said plurality of data sources; and~~

a gap detector for detecting a gap comprising a difference between said first set of data items and said second set of data items.

22. (original) The tool of claim 21, wherein said tool is in communication with said plurality of data sources via an electronic network.

23. (currently amended) The tool of claim 21 ~~or claim 22~~, wherein said gaps are bridged at said plurality of data sources.

24. (currently amended) The tool of claim 21 ~~any one of claims 21 to 23~~, wherein said combination module creates a combination by linking two or more dimensions.

25. (currently amended) The tool of claim 21 ~~any one of claims 21 to 24~~, further comprising a mapping file module for creating a mapping file used for historic data conversion.

26. (currently amended) The tool of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 21 to 25~~, further comprising a report generator for generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.

27. (new) A method according to claim 2, further comprising documenting how the gap was bridged.

28. (new) A method according to claim 1, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.

29. (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

30. (new) A program storage device according to claim 11, further comprising documenting how the gap was bridged.

31. (new) A program storage device according to claim 11, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.

32. (new) A program storage device according to claim 31, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

33. (new) A tool according to claim 21, wherein the gap detector further comprises a gap resolver for facilitating bridging of the gap.

34. **(new)** A tool according to claim 33, wherein the gap detector and resolver document how gaps are bridged.
35. **(new)** A tool according to claim 21, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.
36. **(new)** A tool according to claim 35, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.
37. **(new)** A method according to claim 2, wherein the gap is bridged by providing further data items from the plurality of data sources.
38. **(new)** A program storage device according to claim 11, wherein the gap is bridged by providing further data items from the plurality of data sources.
39. **(new)** A tool according to claim 21, wherein the gap is bridged by providing further data items from the plurality of data sources.